

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9878

INFO USLO PEKING

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AMEMBASSY TOYO

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CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 3992

NOFORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, CH

SUBJ: MORE ON THE TIEN AN MEN RIOTS

REF: PEKING 0611

SUMMARY: THE OFFICIAL PRC VERSION OF THE TIEN AN MEN DEMONSTRATIONS CALLED THEM "ORGANIZED, PREMEDITATED AND PLANNED."

A REPORT FROM THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN PEKING TWO DAYS BEFORE THE RIOTS BEGAN SUPPORTS THIS CONTENTION, NOTING THAT SEVERAL MINISTRIES SENT HUGE WREATHS HONORING CHOU EN-LAI AND THAT ACCOMPANYING TRIBUTES HAD ALREADY TAKEN THE FORM OF SHARP POLITICAL PROTEST. ADDITIONALLY, POSTER ATTACKS THROUGHOUT KIANGSU CRITICAL OF THE CURRENT CAMPAIGN WERE IDENTICAL TO MANY OF THOSE OBSERVED AT TIEN AN MEN, FURTHER INDICATING THE LEVEL OF ORGANIZATION INVOLVED.

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FINALLY, DETAILING THE DEMONSTRATORS' CHARGES IN THE NATIONAL

MEDIA RUNS THE RISK THAT SUCH CHARGES MAY STRIKE A RESPONSIVE CHORD AMONG THE READERS. END SUMMARY

1. PEOPLE'S DAILY APRIL 8, IN A LENGTHY ATTACK AGAINST THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VIOLENCE AT TIEN AN MEN SQUARE, STATED THAT A "HANDFUL OF CLASS ENEMIES, UNDER THE GUISE OF COMMEMORATING THE LATE PREMIER CHOU...ENGINEERED AN ORGANIZED, PREMEDITATED AND PLANNED COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY POLITICAL INCIDENT." A CABLE DATED APRIL 3 FROM THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN PEKING AMPLIFIES ON THE EVENTS LEADING TO THIS CHARGE, NOTING THAT, "DURING THE PAST 24 HOURS", HUGE WREATHS COMMEMORATING CHOU EN-LAI'S DEATH HAD BEEN SENT TO THE MARTYRS MEMORIAL IN TIEN AN MEN SQUARE BY MOST OF THE ECONOMIC MINISTRIES, SEVERAL OF THE STATE TRADING CORPORATIONS, AND THE 1ST, 3RD AND 7TH MACHINE BUILDING MINISTRIES. (THE 1ST IS INVOLVED WITH CIVILIAN MACHINERY AND THE LATTER TWO WITH PLA WEAPONRY.) IN ADDITION, THE AUSTRALIANS OBSERVED A PROCESSION FROM THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES BEARING A LARGE WREATH PRECEDED BY BANNER WHICH AVERRED THAT "SHOULD GHOULS ARISE SPITTING POISONOUS FLAMES WE HAVE THE PEOPLE TO ENSNARE THE EVIL GREAT MONSTER."

2. THE AUSTRALIANS NOTED ONE WREATH ACCOMPANIED BY A TRIBUTE DECLARING "BLOODY WAR ON THOSE KHRUSHCHEV-LIKE FIGURES WHO HAVE USURPED POWER IN THE PARTY AND STATE," AND COMMENTED THAT IN THE PRESENT CAMPAIGN CONTEXT, THIS REFERRED TO THOSE ATTACKING CHOU EN-LAI. ANOTHER TRIBUTE ASSERTED: "WE ARE UNABLE TO DO WITHOUT YOU. DURING THE PAST TWO MONTHS THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PARTY HAS BEEN USURPED BY A HANDFUL OF IMPERIALIST, BOURGEOIS CAREERISTS AND CONSPIRATORS." IT CONCLUDED THAT THE REVOLUTIONARY MASSES WOULD TEAR THE FALSE MASKS FROM THEIR FACES AND EXPOSE THEIR CONTEMPTIBLE FEATURES TO THE PEOPLE. THIS HELPS TO EXPLAIN WHY, WHATEVER THE REAL SYMPATHIES OF THE PEKING AUTHORITIES, THE TRIBUTES TO CHOU HAD TO BE REMOVED.

3. AN AUSTRALIAN EMBOFF (PEKING) TOLD US HERE THAT MANY OF THE POSTER ATTACKS OBSERVED IN NANKING MARCH 31 DEFENDING CHOU AND ATTACKING HIS DETRACTORS REMAINED IN EVIDENCE AS OF APRIL 3 AND THAT THE CLOSING OF SEVERAL KIANGSU CITIES
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POINTED TO WIDESPREAD PROBLEMS THERE. MANY CRITICISMS WERE IDENTICAL TO THOSE IN TIEN AN MEN, FURTHER INDICATING THE LEVEL OF OPPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION INVOLVED. EMBOFF ALSO STATED THAT WREATHS HONORING PREMIER CHOU WERE PLACED AT TIEN AN MEN AS EARLY AS MARCH 29.

4. COMMENT: THE ARTICLE ON THE TIEN AN MEN RIOTS TRIES HARD TO IGNORE THE ISSUE OF SUPPORT FOR CHOU AND TENG IN AN EFFORT

TO HEAP ABUSE OF THE INSTIGATORS OF THE EXCESSES. IT IS AN
ATTEMPT TO DOCUMENT TENG'S DISMISSAL, POINTING TO THE RIOTS
AS THE FINAL ACT WHICH PUT HIM BEYOND REDEMPTION. YET THE
MANNER OF ACKNOWLEDGING THE INCIDENT IN THE NATIONAL MEDIA HAS
ITS COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE ASPECTS. THE MAIN DANGER IS THAT
THERE WILL BE MORE PEOPLE AGREEING WITH THE ARGUMENTS OF
THOSE ATTACKED THAN VICE-VERSA. ADDITIONALLY, IT CONFIRMS
TO THE NATION THAT THERE ARE THOSE SO TIRED OF THE CHAIR-
MAN AND HIS CAMPAIGN THAT THEY ARE WILLING TO PROTEST IN
PUBLIC EVEN IN THE FACE OF OFFICIAL CALLS TO DISPERSE.
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